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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PELIKAN TECHNOLOGIES INC.** [US/US]; 1072 East Meadow Circle, Palo Alto, CA 94303 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ALDEN, Don**

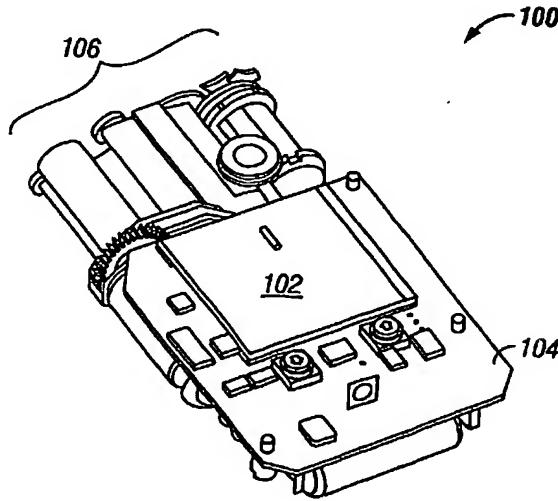
[US/US]; 1312 Nelson Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (US).
BARROW-WILLIAMS, Timothy Donald [GB/GB]; 42 Thorleye Road, Cambridge CB5 8NF (GB). **DEAN, Charlie Michael** [GB/GB]; 168 Sturton Street, Cambridge CB1 2QF (GB). **HUGHES, Martin Lawrence** [GB/GB]; 11 Ridgeway, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes MK 17 8UT (GB). **HUMPHRIES, Mark Robson** [GB/GB]; Manor Mead, High Street, Great Chesterford, Nr Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1PL (GB). **JENNINGS, Douglas Ivan** [GB/GB]; 73 Redwing Rise, Royston, Herts SG8 7XU (GB). **NEUDECK, Thomas** [GB/GB]; 14 Port Hill, Hertford SG14 3EP (GB). **STEPHENSON, John Antony** [GB/GB]; 1 March Lane, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 3LG (GB).

(74) Agent: **TUNG, Hao Y.; Heller, Ehrman White & McAuliffe LLP**, 275 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3506 (US).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LOADING PENETRATING MEMBERS



(57) Abstract: A body fluid sampling system (100) is provided. In one embodiment, the system may comprise a penetrating member driver (110); a plurality of penetrating members sufficient for penetrating tissue; a tape coupling together at least two of the penetrating members; and a penetrating member release device (106) removing the penetrating member from a sterile environment prior to use and moving the penetrating member into position to be operatively coupled to the penetrating member driver. The driver (110) may comprise of a drive force generator for advancing the penetrating member and a processor coupled to the drive force generator capable of changing the direction and magnitude of force exerted on the penetrating member during the lancing cycle. The driver may further include a human interface on the housing providing at least one output for communicating with the patient.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 606/181-185,170-171

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 606/181-185,170-171

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST text search

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 2003/0083685 A1 (FREEMAN et al.) 1 May 2003; Fig. 93-96	1-5, 8-14, 17, 20, 31-38, 43-44, 50-61 1-61
A	US 5,971,941 (SIMONS et al.) 26 October 1999; whole documents	

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document member of the same patent family

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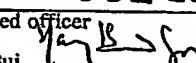
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Faxsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Vy Q. Bui 

Telephone No. 703-308-0858